

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01002 041057Z

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 021620Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4981

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1002

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MZN MA

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE-MALAWI RELATIONS

REF: LILONGWE 729 AND 877

1. AMBASSADOR MET WITH MALAWI EXTAFF PERMANENT SECRETARY KACHINGWE AND MALAWIAN AMBASSADOR TO BRUYSELS ON AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 2. AMBASSADOR PROVIDED KACHINGWE WITH RUN-DOWN ON US-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS AND WITH OVERVIEW OF CURRENT MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL SCENE.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF MALAWI-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS, KACHINGWE CONFIRMED THAT MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE HAVE NEVER FORMALLY ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND THAT BOTH COUNTRIES ARE PROBABLY WAITING FOR THE OTHER TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP IN THE RECOGNITION PROCESS. KACHINGWE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT GPRM AND GOM WERE ADOPTING FRIENDLIER POSTURE TOWARD EACH OTHER, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE A WHILE BEFORE BIP-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 01002 041057Z

LOMATIC RELATIONS WERE ESTABLISHED.

3. KACHINGWE SAID THAT VISIT BY MALAWQIAN DELEGATION TO MOZAMBIQUE WAS BEING HANDLED BY ORGANIZERS OF MOZAMBIQUE'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR AND THAT HE DID NOT PLAN TO SEE ANYONE IN MOZAMBIQUE'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DURING THIS TRIP. KACHINGWE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON GPRM MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE MARIO MACHUNGO BEFORE RETURNING HOME TOMORROW.

4. COMMENT: FROM OUR VANTAGE POINT, MOZAMBIQUE REGARDS MALAWI AS A REACTIONARY REGIME. WHILE THE GPRM IS PREPARED TO MAINTAIN ITS ECONOMIC TIES WITH MALAWI, JUST AS IT HAS WITH SOUTH AFRICA, IT DOES NOT YET APPEAR TO BE INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BANDA'S GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF MALAWI'S CLOSE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TIES WITH THE FORMER PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ITS REFUSAL TO ACTIVELY ASSIST FRELIMO DURING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE, WE BELIEVE GPRM OFFICIALS FEEL STRONGLY THAT PRESIDENT BANDA HAS TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A GENERAL POLITICAL REAPPROACHMENT. DESPITE THE GPRM'S NEGATIVE FEELINGS TOWARD MALAWI, WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GPRM IS INTERESTED IN OR IS ACTIVELY PLOTTING TO UNDERMINING BANDA'S REGIME (LILONGWE 729).
DE PREE

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